

POPULISTS FOR BRYAN

Thomas E. Watson, of Georgia,
Chosen for Vice-President.

CONVENTION OF DISORDER.

Middle-of-the-Road Men Were Defeated
and Many Seem to Have Taken
Refuge to Run Unless Bryan Was
Nominated. But He Was Nominated
Anyhow—A Letter That Was Not Read.William J. Bryan and Thomas E. Watson
were nominated for President and Vice-
President, respectively, by the Populist Convention
at St. Louis.

The Convention met on July 22. The floor, where the delegates were gathered, was in some respects crowded with as unique an assemblage as ever massed under one roof. A glance showed that they came from the farm, the mine, the workshop and the factory. They discarded conventionalities. Fully half of them sat in their shirt-sleeves, with their coats slung over the backs of their chairs. H. E. Taubeneck called the meeting to order. Gov. Stone, of Missouri, made the welcome address. Ignatius Donnelly responded.

His appearance roused the "middle-of-the-road" element to a burst of enthusiasm. The movement which this Convention represented, he said, was a growth of the farm. It had been conceived in the distress that prevailed among the producers of the country. The people had felt the effects of misgovernment. If there was any movement on the face of the earth called up by the veritable hand of God it was the People's party.

Senator Butler was received with great applause. "We are here," he said, "because there is need for us to be here." He referred to the fact that two National parties had already held their Conventions. These two parties had had charge of the Government for 35 years. The people had during this time done their duty in the matter of creation of wealth. They had caused the country so far as they could to blossom as the rose. But these parties had been unfaithful to the trust, and had brought the country to the verge of bankruptcy. The leaders of both had been unfaithful to their trust. Hence the need for the People's party. The Democratic party, at Chicago, was driven to the alternative of siding with gold or the people. "They were so frightened that in their desperation they finally committed grand and petty larceny. They stole our platform and tried to steal our party."

This statement set the Convention wild. The interruptions became so frequent that Senator Butler, after waving his hands appealingly to secure quiet, said that when the gods wish to destroy they first make mad. "Every time you interrupt me," he said, "you endeavor your cause. This Convention has not been crushed by either of the old parties and will not be stamped out. Our duty is to approve what is right and condemn what is wrong."

When 8 o'clock, the hour for the Convention to convene, arrived the hall was in total confusion. The delegates were huddled in the seats in front of the platform, while the galleries of faces swayed in the light of the few candles that flickered on the press tables.

About this time a middle-of-the-roader thought he discovered that the refusal to turn on the lights was part of a scheme of the Bryan people to prevent the straight-out element from coming in. This suspicion that the lights were out in the interest of the faction, as they were turned out at the Cincinnati Convention in 1876 by the opponents of Mr. Blaine, aroused a storm of protests, and the middle-of-the-roaders were charging about in the dark to discover the cause of the unprecedented situation.

"It's a scheme of the Bryan men," the Texas delegation shouted. Some one mounted the stage and yelled: "The party is not in the hall. The lights are out. If they nominate Bryan we'll split this Convention wide open."

"You're a disgrace to the party," came emphatically from the back, exclaiming depths of the hall. By this time the aisles were choked with delegates, pushing and groping their way about in the dark.

Chairman Butler appeared on the stage. Then Senator Butler called the Convention to order. He announced that the Committee on Credentials would not be able to report, and that as, owing to a storm which blew down the electric wires, there was no light, he would declare the Convention in recess until 10 o'clock Thursday morning.

On the second day the Convention, after frittering away several hours, got into business late in the afternoon. The anti-Bryan men had their way in the decision of contested seats, but the Bryan men won a victory in the election of United States Senator William V. Allen, of Nebraska, as Permanent Chairman. Senator Allen made a speech advocating the nomination of Bryan, saying it was a choice between Bryan or McKinley. At the conclusion of Senator Allen's speech the Convention adjourned until the next day. There were several scuffles between Bryan and middle-of-the-road men.

The Convention became practically a mob on the third day, when the anti-Bryanites got a mob and it continued to be little more than a mob during the evening and up to midnight, when nominations were being made and the ballot was being taken for Vice-President.

The nominating speeches lasted until almost exactly midnight, when the roll-call began. The roll-call showed Tom Watson, of Georgia, to be the favorite. The first ballot was completed half an hour after midnight. A stampede to Watson followed, and he was nominated. The confusion of the day and evening was the result of the strategic move of the middle-of-the-road Populists in overruling the report of the Committee on Rules.

The report called for the nomination of President candidate first. The Southerners, or middle-of-the-roaders, were determined not to accept Sewall for Vice-President on a ticket with Bryan to whom, apparently, they had become resigned as a Presidential nominee. The Bryan men finally promised a Southern nominee for Vice-President.

The middle-of-the-road men accepted, then, Sewall, and the State of North Carolina changing its vote, overruled the majority report of the Committee on Rules.

This made it necessary to nominate a candidate for Vice-President first, and it was to this task that the Convention gave itself during the evening and up to the night.

This is the ballot:

STATE.	Sevier.	Watson.	Sewall.	Burke.	Minors.	Page.
Alabama	30	20	18	1	1	1
Arkansas	1	1	1	1	1	1
California	6	26	3	2	1	1
Colorado	1	1	1	1	1	1
Connecticut	1	1	1	1	1	1
Delaware	1	1	1	1	1	1
Florida	1	1	1	1	1	1
Georgia	61	1	1	1	1	1
Idaho	1	1	1	1	1	1
Illinois	1	1	1	1	1	1
Indiana	1	1	1	1	1	1
Iowa	14	14	1	1	1	1
Kansas	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kentucky	6	1	1	1	1	1
Louisiana	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maine	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maryland	1	1	1	1	1	1
Massachusetts	1	1	1	1	1	1
Michigan	1	1	1	1	1	1
Minnesota	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mississippi	1	1	1	1	1	1
Missouri	1	1	1	1	1	1
Montana	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nebraska	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nevada	1	1	1	1	1	1
New Hampshire	1	1	1	1	1	1
New Jersey	1	1	1	1	1	1
New York	1	1	1	1	1	1
North Carolina	1	1	1	1	1	1
North Dakota	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ohio	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pennsylvania	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rhode Island	1	1	1	1	1	1
South Carolina	1	1	1	1	1	1
South Dakota	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tennessee	1	1	1	1	1	1
Texas	1	1	1	1	1	1
Utah	1	1	1	1	1	1
Vermont	1	1	1	1	1	1
Virginia	1	1	1	1	1	1
Washington	1	1	1	1	1	1
West Virginia	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wisconsin	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wyoming	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dist. of Columbia	1	1	1	1	1	1
New Mexico	1	1	1	1	1	1
Oklahoma	1	1	1	1	1	1
Indian Territory	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	1	1	1	1	1	1

The Democratic candidate for President was nominated on the fourth day, in the face of his own protest, in the shape of a telegram directing the withdrawal of his name, sent to Senator Jones—sent after Sewall, his running mate, had been ditched for the Vice-President nomination, and Thomas E. Watson, of Georgia, had been named for second place on the ticket. Bryan had already sent a message saying he would not run if Sewall were not nominated with him. It was also made known that the Convention adjourned some of the radicals held a "rump" Convention.

The last session of the Convention, which lasted until 10 o'clock in the morning until almost 5 o'clock in the afternoon, was marked by scenes of turbulence and noisy excitement, which several times bordered on actual rebellion, and which almost precipitated personal collisions. One fight-did occur; a Rhode Island delegate was ejected, and a West Virginia delegate, inflamed by the action of the Convention, walked sullenly out of the hall. The storm broke three previous days, was in the Texas delegation; but the really dramatic features of this session were enacted behind the scenes. Rumors of what was going on in the minds of the delegates, but they knew nothing definitely, and to the very end a message from Mr. Bryan, which might have changed the result, was kept from their ears.

It was stated on good authority that Bryan said in his letter that, considering all the circumstances and conditions, he concluded that the Populist Convention should consider his name for the Presidency; but if it determined to nominate him notwithstanding this declaration, "that there may be no misunderstanding, I desire in advance to say that I shall leave during the campaign to discuss any other issues than those outlined in the Chicago platform. I desire above everything else to be instrumental in having enacted into the laws of the United States the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the present ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting the consent of any other country. The Populist platform presents several new issues, to discuss which during the campaign will, in my judgment, endanger the success of our cause."

Gen. Weaver, of Iowa, the Populist candidate in 1892, placed Bryan in nomination, and Gen. Field, of Virginia, who was his running mate, after a brief speech, moved to make the nomination unanimous. Chairman Allen held the motion was in order, and until that motion was decided the call of the Convention, could not proceed. The ruling almost precipitated a riot. Some cheered, some cursed, some fought, and there would probably have been serious trouble had not the Bryan leaders wisely concluded to abandon this, so regarded, high-handed program. But in doing so they opened the floodgates, and for six hours the Convention was engaged in a noisy and unproductive session, during which its ruling on the platform, and its action on the platform, were discussed.

When the roll-call was completed it was found that Bryan had 1,042 out of the 1,400 votes in the convention. Frank S. Norton, of Chicago, was the only other candidate. Ignatius Donnelly, of Minnesota, and Gen. Coxy, of Indiana, also were nominated, but their names were dropped. The roll-call was 321 votes, Eugene V. Debs 10, and Donnelly 1. Norton got the majority of the solid vote of Texas, Michigan, New York, Missouri, Rhode Island and Wisconsin, and a respectable portion of the vote of California, Kentucky, Illinois and Ohio. The Convention was adjourned after Bryan had been declared the nominee.

The following is the full text of the platform as finally adopted by the Populist Convention:

The People's Party, assembled in National Convention, reaffirms its allegiance to the principles declared by the founders of the Republic, and also to the fundamental principles of just government as enunciated in the platform of the party in 1892.

We recognize the fact that the country has reached a crisis in its National life, as predicted in our declaration four years ago, and that prompt and patriotic action is required to meet the crisis. We realize that while we have political independence our financial and industrial independence is yet to be attained by restoring to our country the constitutional control and exercise of the functions necessary to a people's government, which functions have been largely surrendered by our public servants to corporate monopolies. The restoration of the Government to the people is more potent in shaping legislation than the voice of the American people. Executive power and patronage have been used to corrupt the legislatures and to bring about the passage of laws that are a disgrace to the Nation. The platform as adopted by the Silverites was: The demonization of silver in 1873 enormously increased the demand for gold, enhancing its purchasing power and lowering all prices. The demonization of silver in 1873 was just and indefensible as the prices of American products have fallen upon an average nearly 50 per cent, carrying down with them proportionately the money value of all other forms of property.

Such fall of prices has destroyed the profits of legitimate industry, injuring the producer for the benefit of the non-producer, increasing the poverty of the laboring classes, and placing the credit, paralyzing the productive energies of the American people, relegating to idleness vast numbers of willing workers, sending the widows of desperate men and the children of the land to beggary, and filling the land with tramps and paupers, and building up colossal fortunes at the money centers.

In the effort to maintain the gold standard the country has been led into a series of years in time of profound peace and plenty, being loaded down with \$262,000,000 of additional interest-bearing debt, under such circumstances as to be sufficient to meet the demands of the bankers to realize a new profit of millions on a single deal.

It stands confessed that the gold standard can only be held by so debasing our currency as to force the prices of our products below the European, and even below the Asiatic level, to enable us to sell in foreign markets, thus aggravating the very evil which it was intended to cure, and thus bringing about the ruin of our civilization itself.

The advocates of the gold standard persistently claim that the cause of our distress is overproduction—that we have produced so much that it has made us poor—which implies that the true remedy is to close the factory, abandon the farm and throw a multitude of people out of employment—a doctrine that leaves us unprepared for the future. We believe it to be an economic paradox as overproduction, and at the same time tens of thousands of our fellow-citizens remaining half clothed and half starved, and pleading for the common necessities of life.

Inasmuch as the patriotic majority of the Chicago Convention embodied in the financial plank of its platform the principles enunciated in the platform of the American Bimetallic party, promulgated at Washington, D. C., Jan. 22, 1896, and herein reiterated, which is not the only plank but the only real plank, and the only one that is recognized by the principles we recommend that this Convention nominate William J. Bryan, of Nebraska, for President, and Arthur Sewall, of Maine, for Vice-President.

We favor a system of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum under proper constitutional safeguards.

We demand the election of President, Vice-President and United States Senators by a direct vote of the people.

We favor the election of the people of Cuba to the independence and self-government, and we believe the time has come when the United States, the great Republic of the Americas, should recognize that Cuba is, and of right ought to be, a free and independent State.

other corporations in excess of their actual needs should, by lawful means, be returned to the Government and held for actual settlers only, and private land monopoly, as well as alien ownership, should be prohibited.

We condemn the frauds by which the land grant to the Pacific Railroad companies have, through the connivance of the Interior Department, robbed multitudes of equal bona-fide settlers of their homes and mineral rights, and we demand legislation by Congress which will enforce the exemption of mineral land from such grants after as well as before patent.

We demand that bona-fide settlers on all public lands be granted free homes, as provided in the National Homestead law, and that no exception be made in the case of Indian reservations when opened for settlement, and that all lands not now patented come under this demand.

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We favor home rule in the Territories and the District of Columbia, and the early admission of the Territories as States.

All public affairs should be made to correspond to the price of labor and its products. In times of great industrial depression, idle labor should be employed on public works as far as practicable.

The arbitrary course of the Courts in assuming to imprison citizens for indirect contempt, and suing that by injunction, should be prevented by proper legislation.

We favor just pensions for our disabled Union soldiers.

Believing that the elective franchise and unimpaired but not the Government, of men, for and by the people, the People's Party condemn the wholesale system of disfranchisement adopted in some States as unconstitutional and we declare that it is to be the duty of the several State Legislatures to take such action as will secure a full, free, and fair ballot, and an honest count.

While the foregoing propositions constitute the platform of the People's Party, and the vindication of which its organization will be maintained, we recognize that the great and pressing issue of the pending campaign upon the present Presidential election, will turn, is the financial question; and upon this great and specific issue between the parties we cordially invite the aid and co-operation of all organizations and individuals agreeing with us upon this vital question.

SILVER MEN MEET.

Indorse Bryan and Sewall, and Hold an Orderly Session.

The Silver Convention met at St. Louis July 23 by call of J. L. Mott, Chairman of the National Committee. Congressmen received 321 votes, Eugene V. Debs 10, and Donnelly 1. Norton got the majority of the solid vote of Texas, Michigan, New York, Missouri, Rhode Island and Wisconsin, and a respectable portion of the vote of California, Kentucky, Illinois and Ohio. The Convention was adjourned after Bryan had been declared the nominee.

M. Newlands made a lengthy argument in favor of the free coinage of silver, and eulogized Mr. Bryan, the Democratic nominee for the Presidency.

The Committee on Permanent Organization recommended that W. P. St. John, of New York, be selected for permanent Chairman; Charles A. Tamm, of Minnesota, for Vice-Chairman, and R. E. Dufendorfer, of Pennsylvania, for Secretary. The report was adopted. Mr. St. John made a speech.

On the second day Mr. Stewart made a speech. Mr. Stewart said that he was not a Democrat in good standing. He had said for two years that if the party nominated a candidate on a gold platform he would not support the candidate. If the party nominated a candidate on a silver platform, he would support the candidate. He said that he was not a Democrat in good standing. He had said for two years that if the party nominated a candidate on a gold platform he would not support the candidate. If the party nominated a candidate on a silver platform, he would support the candidate.

Next day the Committee on Resolutions reported the platform and the recommendation that Bryan and Sewall be nominated. Several speeches were made in favor of Bryan, and he was unanimously nominated. Sewall's nomination was also adopted.

The platform as adopted by the Silverites was: The demonization of silver in 1873 enormously increased the demand for gold, enhancing its purchasing power and lowering all prices. The demonization of silver in 1873 was just and indefensible as the prices of American products have fallen upon an average nearly 50 per cent, carrying down with them proportionately the money value of all other forms of property.

Such fall of prices has destroyed the profits of legitimate industry, injuring the producer for the benefit of the non-producer, increasing the poverty of the laboring classes, and placing the credit, paralyzing the productive energies of the American people, relegating to idleness vast numbers of willing workers, sending the widows of desperate men and the children of the land to beggary, and filling the land with tramps and paupers, and building up colossal fortunes at the money centers.

In the effort to maintain the gold standard the country has been led into a series of years in time of profound peace and plenty, being loaded down with \$262,000,000 of additional interest-bearing debt, under such circumstances as to be sufficient to meet the demands of the bankers to realize a new profit of millions on a single deal.

It stands confessed that the gold standard can only be held by so debasing our currency as to force the prices of our products below the European, and even below the Asiatic level, to enable us to sell in foreign markets, thus aggravating the very evil which it was intended to cure, and thus bringing about the ruin of our civilization itself.

The advocates of the gold standard persistently claim that the cause of our distress is overproduction—that we have produced so much that it has made us poor—which implies that the true remedy is to close the factory, abandon the farm and throw a multitude of people out of employment—a doctrine that leaves us unprepared for the future. We believe it to be an economic paradox as overproduction, and at the same time tens of thousands of our fellow-citizens remaining half clothed and half starved, and pleading for the common necessities of life.

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BRIEF NEWS.

The Mexican Government has refused to accept the resignation of Minister to the United States, as he is regarded as possessing the good will of this Government and its people, and is too good a diplomat to be lost to Mexico at this time. His resignation was tendered on account of articles published in the City of Mexico reflecting upon him.

United States Circuit Judge Sanborn has decided that the Iowa anti-cigarette law is unconstitutional, and ordered the release of D. C. McGregor, of Cedar Rapids. The law was passed by the Iowa Legislature last winter, and went into effect on July 4, 1896, and prohibited absolutely the manufacture or sale of cigars in the State, or their importation into the State. McGregor was arrested for importing cigars and selling them in the original packages, and an application for a writ of habeas corpus was made to Judge Sanborn.

Gov. Mitchell, of Florida, has appealed to the Navy Department for help in protecting his State against the introduction of snappers from Cuba. Secretary Herbert has accordingly telegraphed instructions to Capt. Crownsfield, of the Maine, now at Key West, to aid the local health authorities in the exterminating snappers and passing upon bills of health.

Over 12,000 coat makers in New York went out on a strike last week to enforce higher prices and prevent a renewal of the task and piece-work system. A committee of 15 of the Brotherhood of Tailors, in accordance with early instructions, stopped a march of the manufacturers by visiting all the contractors' shops—630 in number in New York City and 250 in Brooklyn and Brownsville—and notifying the workers to quit forthwith.

July 22 marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of Cleveland, O., and during the celebration was announced that John H. Rockefeller had donated to the city a tract of land for use as a city park. The value of the gift is over \$700,000.

Princess Maud, third daughter of the Prince and Princess of Wales, was married Wednesday, July 22, to Prince Charles, second son of Crown Prince Frederick of Denmark. The ceremony was held in the private chapel of Buckingham Palace.

A heavy storm visited Pittsburg, Pa., Monday night, causing the loss of at least three lives and doing immense damage to property. Fires lighting and heavy winds accompanied the storm. At Allegheny, Pa., 12 people were struck by lightning, and their condition is serious.

Joseph Wesley Harper, who up to last year was the senior member of the firm of Harper Bros., publishers, died in New York City, July 21, aged 66 years.

Ten people lost their lives during a flood at Benson Valley, Ky., last week. Crops were ruined, and many bridges were washed away.

Capt. Nash, his wife Laura, and Second Officer Bramberg, of the barkentine Herbert Fuller, which left Boston, July 3, for Rosario, were murdered while at sea off Halifax, N. S. Second Mate Thomas Bram and the man in charge of the wheel at the time of the murder have been placed under arrest as suspects.